

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJ 55TH ECOSOC, ECONOMIC COMMITTEE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA ITEM 11

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PRESENTATION TO ECONOMIC COMMITTEE
OF REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD BY
PROBST (PRESIDENT IDB/VII) AND INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT
BY UNIDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 28 COUNTRIES TOOK PART
IN GENERAL DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

1. INTRODUCTION BY PROBST WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD REVIEW
OF HIGHLIGHTS OF PC/IDB SESSIONS DURING THE PAST
YEAR. ABDEL-RAHMAN NOTED (A) THAT UNIDO IN
IMPLEMENTATION OF IDB RES 36 (VII) HAS REQUESTED
UNDP APPROVAL FOR USE OF SIS FUNDS TO SUPPORT
PROJECTS INVOLVING COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE AMONG
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; (B) THAT UNIDO IS PLANNING
TOGETHER WITH UNESOB AND ECAFE TO HOLD A MEETING IN
ASIA ON PROBLEMS OF LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SIMILAR
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TO THE ADDIS ABABA MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1973, POSSIBLY

TO BE FINANCED BY A SWISS CONTRIBUTION; (C) THAT UNIDO HAS AGREED WITH JAPAN TO UNDERTAKE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED A NUMBER OF INTENSIVE STUDIES OF PATTERNS AND STRATEGIES OF INDUSTRIALIZATION IN SOME ASIAN COUNTRIES; (D) THAT AT THE RECENT UNIDO MEETING IN BERLIN FRG HAD ANNOUNCED INTEREST IN SUPPORTING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INSTITUTE TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY SUITABLE FOR LDCS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT FURTHER ELABORATION OF THIS INITIATIVE COULD BE REPORTED TO NEXT GA; (E) THAT THE FORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNIDO AND ECA ESTABLISHING A JOINT DIVISION WAS SIGNED JUNE 25.

2. SPEAKERS GENERALLY WELCOMED HOLDING UNIDO-II IN LIMA AND MANY UNDERLINED ITS IMPORTANCE WITH SOME (US) NOTING THAT TIMING COINCIDED WITH MID-TERM R AND A AND THAT INDUSTRIAL SECTOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE R AND A SHOULD BE CENTERPIECE OF CONFERENCE. LDC SPEAKERS GENERALLY CRITICIZED BUDGETARY PROVISIONS FOR CONFERENCE AS INADEQUATE AND CALLED FOR MORE RESOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. COMMENT ON THE REPORT OF THE HIGH LEVEL EXPERTS ON UNIDO STRATEGY RAN THE FAMILIAR GAMUT FROM BRAZILIAN CRITICISM THAT EXPERTS HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE A STRATEGY TO BROAD ENDORSEMENT OF EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS BY A NUMBER OF DELEGATIONS SUCH AS SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, ARGENTINA, KENYA, PERU WITH A CALL FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION. ESTABLISHMENT OF AD HOC COMMITTEE MORE OR LESS WARMLY WELCOMED BY VARIOUS SPEAKERS. IN THIS CONNECTION SRI LANKA ARGUED THAT THE GA MIGHT WELL WISH TO CALL FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION OF SOME OF THE EXPERTS' RECOMMENDATIONS IMMEDIATELY AND WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE RESULTS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE.

4. VARIOUS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES VOICED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE IDB ACTIONS CONCERNING AUTONOMY, INCREASE IN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FIELD ADVISERS AND INCREASE IN REGULAR TA FUNDS FOR IUNIDO. GROUP B (US) AND SOCIALIST COUNTRY SPEAKERS REITERATED OPPOSITION TO IDB/VII
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DECISION ON AUTONOMY PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED IN VIENNA. DISCUSSION OF IDFA'S AND REGULAR TA LEVEL BY GROUP B AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES FOLLOWED PATTERNS OF POSITIONS TAKEN IN PC-II/IDB-VII. (IN CONNECTION WITH ABOVE, SADDLER TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT AS FOLLOW-UP TO EXCHANGE BETWEEN WALDHEIM AND ABDEL-RAHMAN ON QUESTION OF AUTONOMY SYG HAS ESTABLISHED SECRETARIAT TASK FORCE COMPOSED OF NARASHIMAN, DAVIDSON AND STRAVAPOULOS TO PREPARE BRIEF

ON QUESTIONS OF UNIDO AUTONOMY FOR POSSIBLE USE AT GA).

5. IN CLOSING STATEMENT ABDEL-RAHMAN (A) EXPRESSED VIEW THAT PC/IDB HAD NOT DEVOTED SUFFICIENT TIME TO IDENTIFYING MAJOR ISSUES TO BE TACKLED AT UNIDO-II. IN PARTICULAR, HE FELT THEY SHOULD, AS PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE, DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO WORKING OUT PROPOSALS TO BE PLACED BEFORE UNIDO-II. UNLESS SUCH PROPOSALS WERE IDENTIFIED AND PREPARED THE WORK OF THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT FOR THE CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE TO BE "LOW KEY"; (B) OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM OF A LONG-RANGE STRATEGY FOR UNIDO WAS A COMPLEX ONE AND THAT AN EVOLUTIONARY APPROACH MIGHT BE DESIRABLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT UNIDO SUFFERED MUCH LESS FROM A "CONSTRAINT OF CONCEPTS" THAN FROM "ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS"; (C) REFERRED TO THE COORDINATION RESPONSIBILITY PLACED ON UNIDO AND NOTED THAT PROGRESS MADE IN THIS RESPECT WAS STILL FAR FROM COORDINATION THROUGH FORWARD PLANNING OF ACTIVITIES OF THE VARIOUS UN AGENCIES WORKING IN INDUSTRY FIELD OR EVEN CENTRALIZATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION. WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IS CERTAIN AMOUNT OF COORDINATION THROUGH MULTIPLE COOPERATION; (D) ARGUED THAT THE UNIDO SECRETARIAT OFTEN FINDS ITSELF IN DIFFICULTY BECAUSE IT HAS A DUAL POSITION. AS PART OF THE UN SECRETARIAT IT MUST FOLLOW THE DIRECTIVES OF THE SYG. AT THE SAME TIME IT MUST SERVE THE PURPOSES OF THE BOARD. THIS "EXPLAINS THE DIFFICULTIES" UNIDO SECRETARIAT OFTEN FINDS ITSELF IN BEFORE THE IDB ON THE ONE HAND AND THE SYG ON THE OTHER. (THIS SOMEWHAT SURPRISING STATEMENT WAS LATER VIGOROUSLY QUESTIONED BY NETHERLANDS.)

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6. ON REQUEST OF SRI LANKA AND INDONESIA THE ITEM HAS BEEN HELD OPEN FOR THE POSSIBLE SUBMISSION OF A RESOLUTION BEYOND THE CHAIR'S PROPOSAL THAT THE COUNCIL TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE IDB AND FORWARD IT TO THE GA.BASSIN

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